

# FRIDAY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

10/9/2009

## Contents:

- **ALASKA TALKING BOOK CENTER RATED HIGHLY BY PATRONS**
- **ENERGY MONITOR KITS AVAILABLE AT ANCHORAGE LIBRARIES**
- **CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS GRANT APPS DUE BY DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**
- **DELTA LIBRARY JOINS TWITTER**
- **IMAGINATION LIBRARY REQUESTS PROPOSALS FROM COMMUNITIES**
- **FREE WEBINAR – OPEN SOURCE ILS ADD-ONS**
- **WHY YOU SHOULD COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM: THEN AND NOW**
- **CRS REPORT ON PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ALASKA TALKING BOOK CENTER RATED HIGHLY BY PATRONS**

For nearly 1,100 Alaskans who experience visual and physical disabilities, the Alaska Talking Book Center serves as their library lifeline to the world of books and magazines. Eighty-seven percent of these patrons rate the service they receive from the Talking Book Center as excellent and 11 percent rate service as good, according to a survey done in May 2009.

These 1,100 people each check out an average of 45 items from the Talking Book Center every year, while general library patrons check out an average of 11 items annually from Alaska's public libraries.

Patrons have consistently rated the Talking Book Center highly on seven questions posed on biennial satisfaction surveys gathered since 2003. Their comments complement their survey responses:

“What a joy to have this service as my eyesight lessens. It helps push away the nightmares and replaces them with good thoughts.” “I did not realize that the Talking Book Center existed. It has added a new dimension to my 92nd year.” “My husband's life would be empty and hopeless without the talking book service.”

Alaskans whose visual or physical handicap prevent them from reading standard print may apply for this free library service. The Talking Book Center ships playback equipment and books to patrons from across Alaska and arranges to have recorded magazines and Braille materials delivered to their homes.

Patrons of all ages and from towns across Alaska are served by the center, which is located in Anchorage. Library materials are mailed to patrons under the Free Matter for the Blind stamp, which provides free delivery and return of these materials.

The Talking Book Center is part of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the Library of Congress, provides books and magazines and playback equipment for this program, while the state Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums provides staff and office space for the program. See <http://library.state.ak.us/dev/tbc.html> for more information.

For additional information or a sample copy, contact: Patience Frederiksen, Regional Librarian, Alaska State Library Talking Book Center, at 907-269-6566 or [patience.frederiksen@alaska.gov](mailto:patience.frederiksen@alaska.gov). (EED Information Exchange 10/8/2009)

### **ENERGY MONITOR KITS AVAILABLE AT ANCHORAGE LIBRARIES**

An Eagle Scout has worked with Anchorage libraries and various funding agencies to make energy monitors available for checkout in Anchorage libraries. To read more about it, see this September 27 article in the Anchorage Daily News: <http://www.adn.com/news/environment/story/951993.html> (Thanks to Patience Frederiksen for this item.)

### **CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS GRANT APPS DUE BY DECEMBER 15TH**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) invites proposals for the 2010 Connecting to Collections Statewide Planning Grants and the new Statewide Implementation Grants. Applications for these collaborative grants should address the recommendations published in the Heritage Health Index (HHI), which found that many collections held in the public trust by libraries, museums, and archives are at risk. This landmark study, conducted by Heritage Preservation in partnership with IMLS, offered four recommendations to collecting institutions:

- \* Provide safe conditions for collections.
- \* Develop an emergency plan.
- \* Assign responsibility for collections care.
- \* Marshal public and private support for and raise public awareness of collections care.

The Statewide Implementation Grants will build on the Planning Grants. Applicants should demonstrate how their planning process evolved and developed, and show how the proposed project will address the findings of that process. Applications should describe both short-term and long-term impacts of the project activities for collections stewardship across the state. Awards of up to \$250,000 will be made to projects that can serve as models for states that have begun their own planning processes.

Application guidelines for the 2010 Planning and Implementation Grants are available at: [http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/pdf/CtoC\\_2010.pdf](http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/pdf/CtoC_2010.pdf). Please note that the Statewide Planning Grants Web page has a list of awardees for the past two years, as well as copies of their grant narratives to help expedite the application writing process.

IMLS has scheduled two audio conference calls to give prospective applicants an opportunity to ask IMLS staff questions pertaining to the Statewide Planning and Implementation Grants. The calls will be held on:

Friday, October 9 at 3:00 pm ET

Friday, October 30 at 3:00 pm ET

Please check the Statewide Planning and Statewide Implementation Grant Web pages closer to the date of the call for specific dial-in instructions. For questions about the Statewide Planning Grant program, please contact Senior Program Officer, Christine Henry, 202-653-4674, [chenry@imls.gov](mailto:chenry@imls.gov) or Program Specialist, Mark Feitl, 202-543-4635, [mfeitl@imls.gov](mailto:mfeitl@imls.gov). (Thanks for Patience Frederiksen for this item.)

### **DELTA LIBRARY JOINS TWITTER**

Delta Library in Delta Junction appears to be the latest Alaskan library to start a Twitter feed. The feed is at <http://twitter.com/Deltalibrary> and so far is oriented towards announcing library events.

If your library, archives or museums has started a presence on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, etc, we'd like to hear about it.

### **IMAGINATION LIBRARY REQUESTS PROPOSALS FROM COMMUNITIES**

Best Beginnings is working to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library throughout Alaska. With the financial support of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Best Beginnings is offering a request for proposals to launch or sustain Imagination Library in communities across Alaska.

Imagination Library mails a new age-appropriate book each month to every child from birth to age 5 who signs up for the program in their community, regardless of family income. The Dollywood Foundation manages the system to deliver the books to the home.

Community can be defined as a town, village, or an area where a group of people live. Normally, the community pays for the books and mailing, promotes the program, registers children, and enters the information into the database. But with this RFP, villages with schools not making adequate yearly progress may receive 100 percent funding for books, provided they take on all local volunteer tasks. All other communities are invited to apply as usual, and awards will be on a competitive basis.

The request for proposals invites communities to apply for matching financial and technical assistance. The accompanying checklist offers a structure for applications. Deadline: Friday, November 6, 5 p.m. All information is available at [www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org](http://www.BestBeginningsAlaska.org).

### **FREE WEBINAR – OPEN SOURCE ILS ADD-ONS**

Software that dramatically extends and expands the capabilities of your library system software fall into two main categories: discovery interface and metasearch. This presentation will focus on Open Source software that is available to supplement your

library system, regardless of whether you are using an Open Source Library System like Koha or Evergreen or a proprietary system like Millennium, CARL, or Horizon.

During this presentation, participants will understand the importance of providing users a unified discovery interface for all library resources and will learn about four viable Open Source discovery interface products that are in use at libraries today (SOPAC2, Blacklight, Scriblio, VuFind).

This free Infopeople webinar is scheduled for October 22, 2009, 12 p.m. PDT, and will last approximately one hour. Pre-registration is not required. For more information and to participate, go to [http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/webcast\\_data/354/index.html](http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/webcast_data/354/index.html). If you are unable to attend the live event, you can access the archived version the day following the webinar. Check the archive listings at <http://www.infopeople.org/training/webcasts/list/archived>. (WSL Update 10/8/2009)

### **WHY YOU SHOULD COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM: THEN AND NOW**

Every ten years the US Census Bureau asks Americans to fill out a census questionnaire. This information is used for a variety of purposes including legislative redistricting at both state and federal levels, determining distribution of federal funds and for providing demographic information for the use of government, businesses and individual citizens.

Over the years the Census Bureau has used a variety of media to try and convince people to complete their Census forms. Here are two examples widely separated in time:

The 1940 Census – Introduction

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cImIIPsuyR8>

2010 Census: A New Portrait of America – General

[http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/broadcast/video/census\\_operations/011424.html](http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/broadcast/video/census_operations/011424.html)

### **CRS REPORT ON PANDEMIC INFLUENZA**

The non-partisan Congressional Research Service released the following report on the current flu pandemic:

R40554 The 2009 Influenza Pandemic: An Overview

September 10, 2009

<http://opencrs.com/document/R40554/2009-09-10/>

The report gives the history of the current pandemic and outlines current steps to mitigate its impact.

## **FRIDAY BULLETIN**

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian and Director

Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums · Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
PO 110571, Juneau, AK 99811-0571 · Tel: 465-2911 · Fax: 465-2151 · [linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov](mailto:linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov)